

HE CARES FOR YOU

1Pe 5:7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

In this verse we see a precious truth that will transform our Christian life. After ministering to many people over the years I have found that a lot of people understand that God has provided what they need already by the finished work of Jesus, however, they are struggling to receive them. They are aggressively confessing scriptures, rebuking the devil, praying, meditating the scriptures in order to make what is theirs manifest. I find many tired frustrated Christians whose life is not much bettered by all of this. There is a problem with this picture. This is not what God had in mind when He sent His Son to die a bloody death to obtain all we need for life and godliness. Many Christians seem to be dying a bloody death in trying to obtain what Jesus died to give them! This ought not be! I believe this problem arises from two main reasons: a misunderstanding of what biblical faith is, and a skewed view of our Father and our relationship to Him.

First let's look at faith. Many have taught that faith is something we must exert in order to receive from God what He has. It is taught as an aggressive approach towards God. It is a picture of God holding on to what we need, and us coming and getting it, many times aggressively. If we can jump through all the hoops and grab it out of His hand He smiles and says, "Now, that's my boy or girl!" Sadly, this is a gross misrepresentation of what faith is and also our relationship to God as our Father. What is biblical faith?

*Heb 4:3 **For we which have believed do enter into rest,** as he said, *As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.**

Biblical faith towards God is not aggressive, like God is resisting us to see how bad we want what He has for us. Here we see that biblical faith is rest. When you lie down to take a nap, do you do it aggressively? I wonder what that would look like, I guess tossing, turning, and thrashing around in your bed! I don't see that as rest. Rest is a calm repose of peace. When we believe God's promises in our heart it produces a peaceful calm assurance. It is just like if you

had a \$1000 dollar bill due that you cannot pay. It causes you stress and worry. However you hear that a rich relative just died and left you \$1,000,000. What is your attitude now? Joy and peace. You relax and rest knowing that you have enough to meet the demand. Biblical faith is much the same, it is a peaceful, calm, restful assurance God has provided for your need. A majority of Christians do not see faith like this. They see it has a very active aggressive thing. They must keep up their confessions, meditations, rebukings of the devil, constant prayer over their needs, and such in order to receive from God. Not only is this a misunderstanding of biblical faith but a complete misunderstanding of the nature of God as our Father as well.

Are we to actively work to receive from our Father, or is our Father actively working to get to us what we need? In 1 Peter 5:7, we are not to worry, but cast our worry on God. Why? BECAUSE HE IS CARING FOR US! God wants us to be in biblical faith about our problems and needs. How are we to do this? By continual confession of scriptures, meditations, rebukings of the devil, continual prayer over our problems and many other spiritual gymnastics we do? No! We are to cast the problem and need over on the Lord and rest! He wants to actively work in our behalf to solve our problems and bring to us what He died for! Hopefully, this following illustration will help us see our Father correctly. Take a good parent on earth today that loves their child greatly. Is that parent actively working to provide for their child and to make sure they get the good things they provided? Of course! Does the child have to actively try to receive from this parent? Does the child have continually confess that their parent will provide for them and remind their parent constantly of their promise to provide? No, that would really look strange. That would tell me that the child has no understanding of the true heart of their parent. It is the parent who is actively at work to bring good to their child, not the child actively trying to receive from their parent. Now is your Heavenly Father a worse parent than this earthly parent? I think you know the answer.

All of the religious gymnastics we try to do to receive from God is the main reason we don't see what we are trying to get. We think we must play a significant role in receiving what we need. We simply do not trust God will bring us the good things we need without our active participation of our "aggressive faith" so we add our efforts to the situation. This is adding our works to God's grace which destroys grace! God's grace is hindered and made of no effect when we try to

add our efforts in receiving from God. Many are addicted to the thought, "I must do something to receive what I need!" Actually all God is asking from us is to rest in His love knowing that He is actively working to bless us and get good to us, just like any good parent does! Now that is a novel thought isn't it!

Although there are times we need to get aggressive in our faith towards the devil, we never have to be aggressive in faith towards God. We have no need to try to get Him to be more motivated to bless us than He already is! Although there is a place for confessing the Word and meditating the scriptures, these are not for the purpose of trying to receive from God but bringing us to a place of the rest of faith. These disciplines are for us, not for God. You do not have to prove to God your earnestness to receive from Him. He wants you to simply rest in knowing His great love for you and that He is actively caring for you! Rest and receive!